



NEWS RELEASE

Date: December 22, 2008
Release Date: Immediately
Contact: Karen Eubanks, 503-441-9324 (pager)

(TVF&R Responds to Demand on Services)

With the current demand on public safety, emergency responders must prioritize their response to incidents. At this time, responders are focusing on the most serious incidents such as fires and incidents with known life safety hazards. Non-emergency calls will be handled as resources allow. TVF&R has placed a Battalion Chief at the Washington County Communications 911 Center to assist dispatchers with prioritizing calls and resource allocation. The District has also partially activated its Fire Operations Center in an effort to provide support to its emergency crews in the field and continue providing the highest level of customer service possible given the current weather situation.

Beginning yesterday, TVF&R crews began to see residents parking their cars at the base of their hill. Individuals are advised not to park at the base of their hill in such a manner that it blocks access for fire engines. The public is reminded at this time to:

- Limit phone use and call 9-1-1 for only life-threatening emergencies. Individuals wanting road conditions are to call 5-1-1.
- Gather emergency supplies in case of power outages.
- Drive only if necessary. Use mass-transit rather than driving personal vehicles.
- Listen to local news for current weather and transportation updates.
- Check on your neighbors, especially seniors.
- **If the power goes out, use battery-operated flashlight or lanterns to light your home.** Do not use candles due to the potential fire hazard.
- **Never use barbecues or liquid fuel stoves to cook/heat food indoors!** Cooking with these types of appliances will produce carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide is odorless, colorless and DEADLY.
- Use caution when walking on icy steps, walkways, driveways, etc.
- Dress warmly when going outside or during a power outage. Wear a hat to help maintain adequate body temperature.

###